

Descriptions of Organisms

Read the descriptions.

1. Bluefin Tuna

(Thunnus thynnus)

Description: The Bluefin Tuna can grow up to 6 feet and 300 pounds. It has a backbone and a skull and is dark, steel blue along the top of its body and silvery on the bottom.

Habitat: It can be found in the deeper waters of Magdalena Bay.

2. Round Stingray

(Urolophus halleri)

Description: Like all rays, the Round Stingray has a backbone, skull and the rest of its skeleton made of cartilage. It is flat and has a dark-colored top with two eyes. It has a mouth and gills on the bottom of its body and it eats oyster and clams with its blunt teeth.

Habitat: It lives in shallow waters of Magdalena Bay. It often buries itself in the sandy sea bottom.

3. Finescale Triggerfish

(Balistes polylepis)

Description: The Finescale Triggerfish grows up to 2 feet. It has a backbone and a skull. It is brownish in color and feeds on mollusks, crustaceans, and sea urchins.

Habitat: It is found in clusters along the sandy or rocky bottoms of the deeper waters of Magdalena Bay.

4. Pacific Red Snapper

(Lutjanus peru)

Description: The Pacific Red Snapper has a backbone and a skull around its brain. It grows to a length of 2 feet. It is red in color with silver-colored sides and a whitish belly.

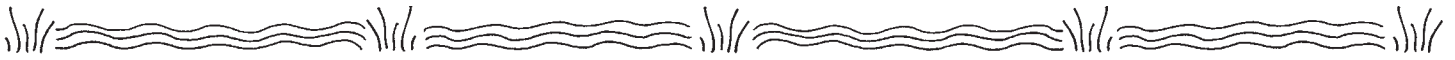
Habitat: It lives in the parts of Magdalena Bay that are 300 feet or more deep.

5. Opalescent Squid

(Loligo opalescens)

Description: The Opalescent Squid, also known as Market Squid or Calamari, has a soft cylindrical-shaped body with 4 pairs of arms, and 1 pair of tentacles. It kills its prey with its two sharp beak shaped jaws. Its coloring varies and has been described as white, mottled gold, brown, or red.

Habitat: It lives anywhere from the surface to the bottom of the ocean.



6. Giant Rock Scallop

(Hinnites giganteus)

Description: This soft-bodied animal is protected by 2 shells. It has no distinct head and uses its muscular foot for movement. As an adult, its 2 shells are brownish, 10" long and 10" wide. It attaches itself to rocks or shells.

Habitat: It lives on rocks or pilings in shallow waters.

7. Pacific Razor Clam

(Siliqua patula)

Description: This soft-bodied animal is protected by 2 long, oval white shells. It is 6" long and 2 3/8" high. This active digger has no distinct head and uses its muscular foot to move around.

Habitat: It lives in sand in shallow water.

8. California Rock Lobster

(Panulirus interruptus)

Description: The California Rock Lobster has a hard, spiny shell called an exoskeleton. Its segmented body has reddish-brown, jointed appendages, 2 pairs of antennae, and compound eyes. It grows to about 16" long and 4" high. It eats just about everything.

Habitat: It lives among rocks in tidepools and from the low-tide line to moderately deep water.

9. Rock Oyster

(Crassostrea palmula)

Description: The Rock Oyster is a soft-bodied animal with two irregularly-shaped shells that are joined together by an elastic ligament that acts as a hinge. Attached to both shells is a muscle called the adductor which keeps the shells closed. It has no distinct head. The bottom shell is usually larger and deeper and cemented to rocks or on the sea bottom. The upper shell is often flattened.

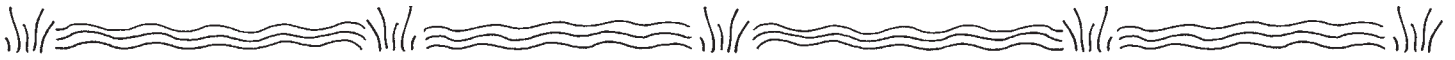
Habitat: They are usually found attached to rocks or on the sea bottom.

10. Red Rock Shrimp

(Lysmata californica)

Description: This type of shrimp is slender and long. It is cream-colored with irregular red stripes and red, paired and jointed appendages that it uses to swim and feed. It has a beak with 8 or more teeth that it uses to feed on small animals and plants. It has an exoskeleton and a segmented body.

Habitat: It lives in rocky shallow areas.



11. Soupfin Shark

(Galeorhinus zyopterus)

Description: Like all sharks, the Soupfin Shark has a cartilaginous skeleton. It is a very slender fish that grows to a length of 6 feet. It travels in schools and can cover up to 25 miles in one day.

Habitat: It can be found close to the coastline in the shallow waters of Magdalena Bay.

12. Pacific Blue Crab

(Callinectes bellicosus)

Description: The blue crab has a hard shell or exoskeleton and compound eyes. Its body is segmented. It has jointed appendages which are used for walking, swimming, and finding food. It walks sideways.

Habitat: It lives in shallow waters and sometimes burrows in the mud or sand of the sea floor.

13. Two-spotted Octopus

(Octopus bimaculatus)

Description: This carnivorous, marine animal has a soft body, developed brain, complex eyes, and 4 pairs of arms with rows of suckers on each. It has a mouth with two jaws. It is usually gray, brown, olive, or reddish.

Habitat: It lives in holes and under rocks.

14. Pacific Halibut

(Hippoglossus stenolepis)

Description: The carnivorous Pacific Halibut has a backbone and a skull around its brain. It has two eyes on its dark-brown top side and a pale bottom side. The females can weigh up to 470 pounds while the males only grow to 40 pounds.

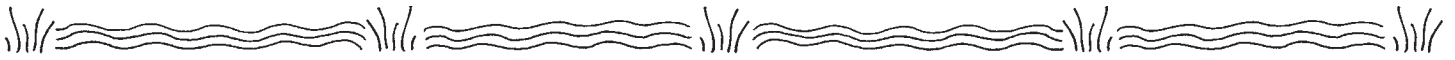
Habitat: It lives in the deep waters of Magdalena Bay.

15. California Mussel

(Mytilus californianus)

Description: This soft-bodied animal is protected by 2 long, rounded triangular-shaped shells. It has a muscular foot and no distinct head. Its shells are bluish-black and 10" long and 4" high. It is one of the most abundant types of mussels on the West Coast and is eaten by sea stars, crabs, birds and humans.

Habitat: It lives on rocks and wharf piles.



16.Striped Mullet

(Mugil cephalus)

Description: The Striped Mullet has a backbone and a skull around its brain. It grows to a length of 3 feet. It feeds on algae and detritus. It is often seen jumping out of the water.

Habitat: It lives in the sandy or muddy waters of Magdalena Bay including the mangrove estuaries.

17.Pacific Angel Shark

(Squatina californica)

Description: The Pacific Angel Shark has a cartilaginous skeleton and grows up to 5 feet. It is flat and swims along the bottom of the bay. It sometime partially buries itself in the sand and is able to change colors to blend in with the sea floor.

Habitat: It is found on the muddy or sandy bottom of Magdalena Bay.

18.Red Abalone

(Haliotis rufescens)

Description: This soft-bodied animal is protected by one oval, somewhat flattened, shell. The shell has small holes along one side and is red on the outside and iridescent blue, green and pink on the inside. It has tentacles on the head area which help it find food. It grows to about 12” long, 9” wide, and 3” high. The meat of the Red Abalone is considered a delicacy and commands a high price in the fish market.

Habitat: It attaches to rocks and hides in crevices.